



TEAMSPIRIT - THE MANUAL

TeamSpirit is a program designed to empower high school-aged youth to take an active role in preventing alcohol and other drug use and impaired driving by their peers. It is based on the belief that youth themselves can become a potent force in combatting alcohol and other drug use among other youth. Through their involvement in this program, *TeamSpirit* members strengthen their individual resolve and capacity to remain free of alcohol and other drugs. Working together, they become an effective cadre of positive change agents within their schools and communities.

TeamSpirit was developed and pilot tested as a joint project by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) of the Department of Justice. The Office on Substance Abuse Prevention (OSAP) has also supported training activities for *TeamSpirit*.

The *TeamSpirit* program has two phases. The first phase consists of a summer residential Leadership Training Conference for selected young people and their adult sponsors. The leadership conference provides participants with skills, motivation, and a planning process to enable them to implement prevention activities in impaired driving. The second phase begins when school resumes and *TeamSpirit* members implement their planned activities. *TeamSpirit* leaders involve other young people from schools and community groups to extend the program beyond the initial cadre of trained members.

To date, community organizations have sponsored *TeamSpirit* in many states and local communities. For example, Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) conducted *TeamSpirit* in a number of local

chapters and received a grant from the Nancy Reagan Foundation to conduct more programs during the summer of 1993.

Using information learned during past *TeamSpirit* programs, NHTSA has revised the manual to aid other communities in establishing the program. The manual describes in detail how to plan, conduct, and follow-up a *TeamSpirit* Leadership Conference. The contents of the Manual include:

- Program Overview
- Planning the Conference
- Community Groundwork
- Pre-conference Implementation Tasks
- Final Conference Preparation
- Pre-conference Training
- The Conference and
- Post Conference Tasks

The manual also includes sample documents, a curriculum guide, and a sample conference notebook.

The *TeamSpirit Manual* will be useful to anyone planning to conduct a youth conference. Due to the detailed nature of its contents, the manual is only intended for those who are actually starting to plan a youth conference. For those who are interested in learning more about the *TeamSpirit* program, the *TeamSpirit Pamphlet* is available that describes the goals and requirements of *TeamSpirit* in much less detail.

For further information about the *TeamSpirit* Program or copies of the *TeamSpirit Manual*, or the *TeamSpirit Pamphlet*, contact:
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